

QIC Monthly Meeting Richfield Southwest Region
May 27, 2009

Our monthly QIC meeting was held at Central Utah Counseling Center (CUCC) at 12:30PM on Wednesday May 27th.

In attendance: Shelley Haupt, Community Partner; Leanne Geigle, CUCC; Angie Morrill; Pamela Allred, DCFS Supervisor Richfield; Valorie Johnson, DV worker; Caron Wither, New Horizons Crisis Center; Marissa Douglas, UFCF; Mike Godfrey, Manti DCFS Supervisor; Selena Terry, Phavant School Principal; Bruce Zylks, DCFS Program Administrator and Karen Anderson, DCFS Administrative Assistant.

Excused: April Fortie, Family Support Center Manager; Arleen Cromwell PhD, CUCC Director Richfield; Susan Munk, Family Support Center Director/Workforce Services; Karen Payne, CASA Program Manager; Tammy Powell, DJJS; Mary Lee Harrison, Retired Community Partner; Susan Munk, Family Support Center Director/Workforce Services; Josephine Griffith, Community Partner; Gail Albrecht, Sevier School District; Don & Coylene Brinkerhoff, Richfield foster parents;

Guests: Nancy Bean, Sanpete County Foster Parent Cluster Coordinator and Ralph Okerlund, Legislator for Revenue Appropriations

Agenda Items:

- Welcome – Shelley Haupt
- Introductions
- Review Previous meeting Minutes
- Worker Retention – thank you Karen Payne
- Utah Foster Care Foundation Update – Marissa
- Discuss Foster Parent Rates with Legislators
- Report from Family Support Center – April
- CUCC update on SV Drug Prevention Sept 12 - Leanne
- CPR Results – Bruce
- Report of Agency Changes/Budget Cuts - Bruce
- Other Business

Handouts:

- Foster Care Information Night

Shelley welcomed everyone to the meeting, agenda and roll was passed out and minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Introductions were made.

Bruce explained what the QIC committee is and what they do. He explained that one of our goals is to help the UFCF recruit foster parents for our area and the one of the biggest road the committee sees is the reimbursement rate for caring for foster children. When DCFS does removals of children, the ultimate would be if they could be placed in the same area they were removed from, this way they could stay in the same school, have the same friend, medical care and it would help with reunification services. Current rates were discussed and it was also brought up that the current rates were going to roll back to the 2007 rates. Nancy Bean stated that a study was done on middle income families across the nation on the cost of raising children. The day to day expenses not to include household expenses and the foster parents in Utah are under reimbursed between 49% - 70%. She also explained that a lot of times the children that come into care only come with the clothes on their back. Nancy shared some of her experiences, successes and disappointments. Nancy also said that foster parents are some of the best people you will ever meet. Ralph asked some questions and said he would get the name of the legislators that the QCI could contact or write to about our concerns. Ralph said that next year will not be any better, the State will be looking at less money because we won't have anymore stimulus money. Seventy percent of the States budget goes to Education and Human Services. Utah has a balance budget amendment and that was explained. The Tax Commission was also cut 15%. Ralph did commit to advocate for the foster parent even though he is not on any of the committees that impact DCFS he is

willing to talk to those who are. There could also be some additional taxes (tobacco). Federal money does help with the expenses for children who are IV-E eligible. Bruce did say that Federal money will be cut next fiscal year also.

Selena Terry shared how hard it is on children when they are moved from one school to another and the importance of stability and routine for children. Selena will invite other school staff to our next meeting.

Bruce was asked to talk about the status of the State employees, he shared that there is currently a worker freeze (throughout the State) and that DCFS lost a worker in the Manti office. DCFS has a worker in the Richfield office that will be retiring late this summer and that position will not be replaced. Travel has been cut, office phones have been cut and workers now use their cell phones only and office expenses are being managed much tighter.

Families and children are still DCFS top priority and because the current economy stressors are high children are more at risk. We also discussed CPS investigations and how a cut in the home and or out of home services would impact CPS investigations, it may cause more work in this area.

Shelley said she would like to see more community partners on the QIC.

Marissa announced that the Foster Parent Information Night was going to be at the Central Utah Counseling Center Recovery House at 236 South 100 East in Richfield, starting at 6:30 and going to 7:30. Some volunteered to help and out flyers. There is also a foster parent appreciation weekend planned at Palisade State Park.

Bruce reported the CPR results for the Manti and Richfield offices were 100%. He was asked to bring a brief summary next month since time was running out. CPS and Stability needs to be put on the agenda for next month and that DCFS is seeing more recidivism over a year's period of time.

Next meeting will be held June 24, 2009

Internet site for QIC: <http://utahqic.utah.gov>